FBIS DAILY REPORT

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PERU'S ALVA CASTRO PROPOSES OAS SUMMIT MEETING

PY022247 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0301 GMT 2 Mar 87

[Text] Lima, 1 Mar (EFE) -- Peruvian Prime Minister Luis Alva Castro, chairman of the Inter-American Economic and Social Council (CIES), today proposed that the finance ministers of the OAS countries hold a summit meeting.

Alva Castro made this proposal in a note to OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares. In the note, the Peruvian minister suggests that the meeting be held by the end of June, 1987.

Alva Castro states in the note that he is sure the proposal will be accepted and that during the meeting the finance ministers will be able to exchange ideas on the debt, financing, and foreign trade. The proposal by Alva Castro, who is also economy and finance minister, was published by the state-owned news agency ANDINA. Alva Castro's note contains a requiest that the OAS Secrtariat General draft a working document that "encourages the finance ministers to exchange ideas during the meeting."

The proposal suggests that the finance ministers study the link between economic growth and the survival of democracy, in light of a document drafted by Latin American experts.

Alva Castro's note adds that so far the foreign debt issue has been discussed merely as just another issue, "without taking into account its overriding influence on development."

The note says that the governments of countries that have an "economy of scarcity" -- like that of the Latin American countries, where there are no economic or social infrastructures, where the distribution of income and resources is not balanced, and where there are "marked characteristics of extreme poverty -- cannot dare to be mere exporters of capital, as they have been in servicing their foreign debts."

Alva Castro says that the OAS is "the ideal forum," because it includes countries "suffocated" by the debt issue, and the United States, "the world's largest creditor."

Alva Castro proposes that a political dialogue "of the highest level" be held in an attempt to find global solutions to the foreign debt problem, which is not specific to certain countries, but rather is widespread.

The note recalls that it is generally agreed that the debt cannot be serviced, as originally believed.

Alva Castro adds that "creative and feasible solutions must be sought, because traditional refinancing has not solved the debt problem."

ANDINA news agency has reported that Alva Castro sent copies of his note to Baena Soares to all finance ministers in the continent.

INTERIOR MINISTER ANNOUNCES ELECTION DATE

PY022050 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2034 GMT 2 Mar 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 2 Mar (TELAM) -- Interior Minister Antonio Troccoli today announced at Government House that the elections for provincial governorships and for some Chamber of Deputies' seats will be held on 6 September.

He made this announcement during a news conference this afternoon in the Hall of Shields at the Interior Ministry.

FURTHER ON MILITARY OFFICERS' HUMAN RIGHTS TRIALS

11 More Officers Arrested

PY281756 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 28 Feb 87 pp 1, 11

[Text] (NA-DYN) -- The Federal Appeals Court yesterday ruled the rigorous preventive arrest of four retired vice-admirals, one lieutenant-comander, three serving naval commanders, and Navy Lieutenant Alfredo Astiz for human rights violations committed at Esma Navy Mechanics School, Court President Andres D'Alessio reported.

Retired Vice-Admirals Jorge Vanek and Julio Torti and serving Captain Luis D'Imperio were released, but must remain at the court's disposal.

The court reached this decision after hearing the testimony of the 13 naval officers. Although most of them rejected the serious and numerous accusations filed against them, a few officers implicitly admitted that illegal methods had been employed in the war against left-wing subversion.

The ten arrested naval officers are Astiz; retired Vice-Admirals Oscar Montes, Jacinto Garcia Tallada, Humberto Barbuzzi, and Jose Suppicich; Commanders Adolfo Donda, Antonio Pernia, Francis Whamond, and Jorge Acosta (retired); and Lieutenant-Commander Carlos Capdevila.

Preventive arrest was also ruled for Coast Guard Commander Hector Febres and noncommissioned officer Juan Azic.

As predicted, serving officers will be detained in the units where they are currently stationed, and retired officers will remain on board troop carrier "Bahia Paraiso" at the local naval base.

Acosta reported in his testimony that at a meeting of commanders, the convicted Former Navy commander-in-Chief Armando Lambruschini had said he did not agree with the methods used at ESMA to fight subversives, but authorized it due to its efficiency.

Acosta, the only one to willingly answer his questioning, admitted that as ESMA intelligence chief, he had kept close contact with the so-called "task groups" which operated in the institution, but stressed that he was following direct orders from his immediate superiors.

In that respect he mentioned the late Ruben Chamorro and fugitive Jorge Vildoza, who were ESMA's director and co-director, and the chain of command culminating in then-Navy Commander in Chief Emilio Massera.

Acosta also revealed that Massera and the whole chain of command paid a weekly visit to ESMA, and that when Lambruschini took over, a group of officers headed by Chamorro and Vildoza regularly brought him a detailed account on the task groups' activities.

Despite his acknowledgment of illicit methods of repression, Acosta explained that ESMA's intelligence department used to circulate rumours on the torture and murder of prisoners at the school in order to obtain the quick collaboration of detainees.

All 15 officers denied the existence of a clandestine detention centre at ESMA, and of having committed atrocities in the repression of subversives. Astiz even described the charges filed against him as "false and based on ulterior motives," and said he would gather evidence to contest them in court.

Torti said he had not participated in the war against subversion as he devoted his time at the head of ESMA to the preparation of his units for a possible war with Chile over the Beagle Channel.

Although Torti, Vanek, and D'Imperio were released for lack of sufficient evidence, they will have to attend every stage of the officers' oral and public trial, or face preventive arrest. Sources estimated the trial will begin towards the end of April.

The court is expected to order the prosecution and defense to begin determining the witnesses for the trial in about two weeks.

Meanwhile, the Navy High Command met yesterday to receive a formal notification of the ar rests, and later discussed the situation at the different naval units, especially at Puerto Belgrano, where pamphlets voicing support of the war against subversion appeared.

The Air Force, in turn, yesterday reported that the preventive arrest ruled against retired Colonel Luis Estrella for his alleged participation in the murder of two priests was "in no way a conviction," and did not affect "the presumption of innocence which he still enjoys."

In related news, the Bahia Blanca Federal Appeals Court reportedly declared itself non-competent in the case of missing Mar del Plata youths Ana Rosa Frigerio and Fernando Yudi, and nine other files of human rights crimes committed at the Mar del Plata naval base. The court yesterday admitted that a "no name" (NN) body had turned up at a local cemetery and been identified as Carlos Roberto Riveras, who died in 1976. Rivera's wife had recently attended the court to request an investigation into the whereabouts of her husband, as he had been appearing in the lists of missing people for 11 years.

The court received a medical report certifying that retired General Osvaldo Rene Azpitarte will not be able to answer his summons next March 9 because he is suffering from hemiplaegia with speech loss and other alterations.

Kidnapping, Torture Charged

PY012049 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 2 Mar 87 p 15

[Text] (NA-DYN) -- The Federal Appeals Court charged the twelve military officers who were put under rigorous preventive arrest last Friday with participating in kidnappings and torture sessions as evidenced in a number of cases aired in the trial of the former military junta members.

In justification of the measure, the court issued 15 resolutions yesterday stating the reasons for the 12 arrests and the three releases.

The resolutions mention details on some of the cases involving the officers and specify the degree of responsibility that each one had within the chain of command.

The arrested officers are Rear-Admirals Jacinto Garcia Tallada (retired) and Jose Suppicich, Vice-Admirals Oscar Antonio Montes (retired) and Humberto Barbuzzi, Commander Jorge Acosta (retired), Lieutenant-Commanders Carlos Capdevila (doctor), Adolfo Donda, and Antonio Pernia, Captain Francis Whamond, and Lieutenant Alfredo Astiz.

Also affected by the measure were Coast Guard Commander Hector Febres and non-commissioned officer Juan Antonio Azic, who was accused of torturing a 20-day old baby in order to obtain information from his father.

Retired Vice-Admirals Julio Torti and Jorge Vanek and serving captain Luis D'Imperio were freed for lack of sufficient evidence, but the case against them continues.

In the trial of the former commanders, it was proved that convicted Navy Chiefs Emilio Massera and Armando Lambruschini ordered illegal methods for the repression of subversion, stated the court.

"The method for fighting terrorism consisted of capturing suspects, keeping them in clandestine captivity under inhuman conditions, torturing them to obtain information, and finally, either putting them at the disposal of justice or the executive, or physically eliminating them," explained the resolutions.

The four retired admirals, said the court, were in condition to review the orders of illegal repression they received, "as can be deduced from their own testimony."

The preventive arrest of the officers of lesser rank was ruled on the basis of reports from witnesses who were captive at the clandestine detention centre which operated at ESMA.

A reliable court source said that "only a few well-proven cases of kidnappings and torture were used as evidence for the preventive arrests," and that in the upcoming trial Federal Prosecutor Julio Cesar Strassera could bring in new elements to incriminate the accused in other crimes.

The court ruled the arrest of Astiz based on the testimony of witnesses who claim they saw him take part in torture sessions at ESMA. He will not be tried in the case of the disappearance of Swedish-Argentine teenager Dagmar Hagelin for which he was acquitted last year by the statute of limitations.

Among the witnesses who incriminated Astiz, ex-detainee Lazaro Gladstein said he had been tortured with an electric cattle prod with his face uncovered and identified Astiz as one of the men present in the room.

Carlos Lordskipanidse, also detained at ESMA, said that during a torture session a man named "Pirana" walked in with Lordskipanidse's baby, to whom he applied the cattle prod as a way of obtaining information from the father.

Shown a picture of Coast Guard Commander Astiz, the witness identified him as the cited "Pirana."

Similar testimony implicated the other accused who were referred to by nicknames overheard by the witnesses at the detention centre.

Meanwhile, the arrested serving officers were yesterday transferred to the Puerto Belgrano naval base, and the retired officers were taken back to the Bahia Paraiso troop carrier, where they were all held awaiting further questioning.

However, a request has been raised to the Navy High Command not to have the ship, which is currently used for scientific expeditions, employed as a military prison.

Alfonsin on Issue

PY012100 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 1 Mar 87 p 1

[Text] (NA-DYN) -- President Raul Alfonsin said the situation in the Armed Forces was "absolutely normal" and that "none of what has happened was unexpected," in reference to the Federal Appeals Court decision to rule the preventive arrest of 10 naval officers and two Coast Guard members.

The President discussed the subject in a late Friday night meeting with cabinet men, legislators, and party leaders, sources reported yesterday. He recommended that the issue remain strictly judicial.

The court, meanwhile, considered it sufficiently proven that the arrested officers were authors of "grave human rights crimes" committed at the Navy Mechanics School (ESMA), and issued resolutions justifying the ruling.

GOVERNMENT SUBMITS DRAFT BUDGET TO CONGRESS

PY281802 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 28 Feb 87 p 1

[All figures and percentages as published]

[Text] (DYN) -- This year's national budget bill calling for a total expenditure of 28,548,455,000 australs and an estimated 17.9-percent deficit was sent to Congress by the government yesterday.

According to the "expenditure by sectors" distribution chart, which was not officially disclosed by the authorities, the Defence Ministry leads the expenditures with 44.33 percent of the total, followed by "obligations of the Treasury" (39.59 percent) and the Public Works Ministry (10.6 percent).

The fourth place is shared by the Health and Education Ministries (9.9 percent), while Congress (both houses) has been granted the lowest share of the budget (0.7 percent).

On the other hand, according to the "goals" set in the first clause of the draft bill (included in the information released by the Government House), the distribution of this year's budget is as follows: general administration, 28.6 percent; defence, 7.5 percent; security, 2.8 percent; health, 3.6 percent; culture and education, 8.4 percent; economy, 26 percent; social welfare, 17.2 percent; public debt, 7.6 percent; and science and technology, 2.3 percent.

The presidency's expenditures will mount to 1,485,449,000 australs (5.442 percent) while the legislative and the judicial branches have been allocated 200,605,000 (0.735 percent) and 254,097,000 australs (0.931 percent), respectively.

The services of the public debt, which are included in the "obligations of the treasury," will mount to 2,100,222,000 australs, which represents 7.69 percent of the total.

MILITARY SALES TO IRAN, MEXICO OUTLINED

PY281810 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 28 Feb 87 p 11

[Text] (NA-DYN) -- The head of the Fabricaciones Militares (FM) military-industrial complex, Jorge Carnelli, announced yesterday that Argentina had concluded a deal to sell armaments to Iran for a value of 31 million dollars and said FM already had the respective letter of credit in its possession.

Carnelli did not say what type of armaments were sold to Iran, but told the daily LA NACION that the sale was in keeping with the policies of FM to rationalize and expand its activities and added that another deal pending was the sale of 50 locally made TAM light tanks to Mexico.

He said the offer to Mexico was within the agreement under which Mexico would contribute to the financing and construction of the Loma de la Lata-Bahia Blanca-Buenos Aires gas pipeline.

Carnelli said the Argentine TAM light tanks were of a higher quality than those manufactured by Brazil but their cost was also higher.

He recalled that recently Argentina concluded the sale of an ammunitions factory to Zaire which would only bring in four million dollars but would strengthen Argentina's presence in Africa, an area formerly monopolize by Brazil.

Carnelli said FM was going through a transformation process with precise production objectives and the maximum use of its plants to expand its export operations. He added that plants that did not meet the objectives would be sold or liquidated.

FM was also seeking greater contacts with private enterprises and in this context was studying with a private firm the construction of an aluminium railway wagon which without reducing its degree of security would considerably cut down its deadweight, Carnelli said.

He said FM would have an estimated loss of 10 million australs this year from its 13 plants which employed more than 10,000 people but its was expected to reduce this deficit with the plans underway and the incorporation of more sophisticated technology.

1981 TRADE AGREEMENT WITH PERU EXTENDED

PY232222 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 23 Feb 87

[Text] Argentine Foreign Minister Danta Caputo and Peruvian Ambassador Alfonso Grados Bertorini today signed an extension of the agreement which was signed between Argentina and Peru on 4 September 1981. By that agreement Peru agreed to purchase $300 million worth of Argentine goods and railroad equipment. The extension is for 1 year.

PRESIDENT PAZ ESTENSSORO SWEARS IN NEW CABINET

PY272119 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 27 Feb 87

[Text] Thirteen ministers remain in their posts, while President Victor Paz Estenssoro has replaced five others.

Decree (?21,528) read during a ceremony held today at Government House, states:

1. [number as heard] The following citizens have been appointed members of the cabinet.

minister of foreign affairs and worship: Guillermo Bedregal Gutierrez;
minister of interior, migration and justice: Juan Carlos Duran Saucedo;
minister of national defense: Luis Fernando Valle Quevedo;
minister of planning and coordination: Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada;
minister of finance: Juan Luis Cariaga Osorio;
minister of education and culture: Enrique Ipina Melgar;
minister of transport and communications: Andres Petricevich Raznatovic;
minister of industry, commerce and tourism: (Fernando Moscoso);
minister of labor and labor development: Alfredo Franco Guachalla;
minister of social services and public health: Carlos Perez Guzman;
minister of mining and metallurgy: (Jaime Villalobos Montenegro);
minister of agriculture, campesino affairs and livestock affairs: Jose Guillermo Justiniano Pastor;
minister of energy and hydrocarbons: Carlos Eduardo Morales Landivar;
minister of housing and urban affairs: Juan Franklin Anaya Vasquez;
minister secretary general of the presidency: Walter Zuleta Roncal;
minister of information: Herman Antelo Laughlin;
minister of aeronautics: General Jaime Zegada Hurtado;
minister of tax collection: [name indistinct].

In the speech he delivered at the swearing-in ceremony, President Victor Paz Estenssoro said that the government will continue to implement the economic policy enforced through decree. [number indistinct]. He said that we will seek solutions that will not (?harm) the country. [passage indistinct]

INTERIOR MINISTER ON DIALOGUE, ANTIDRUG CAMPAIGN

PY281602 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 28 Feb 87

[Text] Newly appointed Interior Minister Juan Carlos Duran yesterday said: I want to begin a broad dialogue with all representative sectors in search of peace for the Bolivian people. The minister confirmed that the fight against drug trafficking remains a key government objective, adding that the struggle must be multilateral, with the direct support of the countries where the drugs are consumed.

Concerning the 3-year plan to fight drug trafficking, on which the Bolivian and U.S. Governments have already exchanged notes, Minister Duran said that the executive branch has made careful decisions that take the nation's interests into account.

Duran expressed his willingness to promote a dialogue with the various sectors.

[Begin Duran recording] We will open a broad dialogue with the labor and sociopolitial sectors in an attempt to maintain an atmosphere of peace and tranquillity that will be appropriate for the economic reactivation program.

On the other hand, I reiterate that we will preserve peace and tranquillity by resorting to the mechanisms the government can use. I think the situation is satisfactory, and we will try to preserve it. [end recording]

BEDREGAL TO ATTEND NONALIGNED MEETING IN GUYANA

PY281546 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 28 Feb 87

[Text] Foreign Minister Guillermo Bedregal Gutierrez will attend the meeting the Latin American Bureau of Foreign Ministers of the Nonaligned Movement will hold in Guyana, slated to begin on 2 March. The minister announced his trip at Government House yesterday.

[Begin Bedregal recording] I think this meeting is very important. It will be held by the Latin American Bureau of the Foreign Ministers of the Nonaligned Movement in Georgetown, Guyana. The main agenda items will be the foreign debt, the Contadora Group efforts, and what we will do as far as North-South relations are concerned. [end recording]

Bedregal will be accompanied at the Georgetown meeting by Bolivian Ambassador to the OAS Jorge Gumucio.

Minister Bedregal also confirmed that as of today, and through the corresponding decree, the Integration Ministry will become an under secretariat of the Foreign Ministry.

DENMARK CANCELS $630,000 OF NATIONAL DEBT

PY272220 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 27 Feb 87

[Text] A bulletin from The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship has reported that Denmark has decided to cancel overdue payments on Bolivia's debt with the Danish Government. This amounts to $630,000. The bulletin also acknowledged the receipt of a note from the Danish Embassy in Buenos Aires. Part of the text states:

Complying with instructions received from the Foreign Ministry, this embassy officially reports that Denmark has decided to cancel the payments that fell due in the past 4 years on the loans the Danish Government granted to Bolivia in 1970, 1974, 1977, and 1978.

U.S., SOVIET MEDDLING REPORTED; MOVEMENT CREATED

PY271242 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Excerpts] The national council of the National Front of Chilean Autonomous Organizations, FRENAO, has publicly charged that come countries have undertaken dirty maneuvers against Chile. During a press conference, FRENAO President Manuel Contreras Loyola said that such maneuvers seek to destabilize the country, adding that the Chilean people are aware that some intelligence agencies are jointly waging a dirty war against Chile.

[Begin Contreras recording] FRENAO publicly charges that the United States, the USSR, and Cuba have taken action at the international level to destabilize the Chilean government through dirty maneuvers. [passage omitted]

FRENAO and its members hereby call upon all nationalistic and patriotic sectors to defend Chilean sovereignty. To this end, workers, businessmen, professionals, intellectuals, and students from all over the country have created the 9 de Septiembre Movement. The platform of this civic-patriotic movement is based on the declaration of principles of the Armed Forces and on the constitution. The major principles of the movement, which remains totally outside foreign ideology and philosophy, are the [words indistinct] of the fatherland, tradition, family, and religion. [end recording] [passage omitted]

GOVERNMENT TO COUNTER UN HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT

PY270256 Santiago Radio Chilean in Spanish 2200 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] The Chilean Government will refute each negative point on the Chilean human rights situation mentioned by the special observer at the United Nations Organization. Chilean Ambassador Mario Calderon, who will travel to Geneva on 28 February, said that the principal criticism concerned the alleged impunity with which armed groups act in Chile, and the wide scope of the measures of exception.

Regarding the motions to be presented about our country by the U.S. and Mexican Government, Calderon said that while the U.S. proposal is fair, the Mexican motion is absolutely unacceptable. He said that the Mexican motion is eessentially political and does not understand in the least the report drafted by the UN observer. The Chilean reply to the document drafted by Fernardo Volio Gimenez will be submitted for final approval of the interior minister and acting foreign minister.

In conclusion, Mario Calderon said that UN observer Fernando Volio's agenda for his visit to Chile is practically finished. His trip will include interviews with different organizations and a visit to Chilean province.

BRIEFS

NEW SOCIALIST MOVEMENT — In a press conference today, Carolina Toha, Ricardo Brodsky, Eduardo Abarzua, Esteban Valenzuela and Patricio Gonzalez officially announced the formation of the Youth Socialist Movement (Movimiento del Socialismo Jovan) which hopes to promote the unity of socialism. [Summary] [Santiago LA SEGUNDA in Spanish 9 Feb 87 p 7 PY]

CNG GUERRILLAS ATTACK COMMUNICATIONS TOWER

PA271935 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1756 GMT 27 Feb 87

[Text] The guerrillas in Valle del Cauca Department have attacked the communications towers [plural as heard; video shows only one microwave dish lying in pieces on the ground] of the Navy and of Inravision, located just 40 km from Dagua. Mario Arboleda reports from the site of the action, via microwave:

[Begin relay] [Arboleda] Here, in (El Cremal), this communications tower of the Colombian Pacific Naval Base was blown up [as heard] by guerrillas belonging to the National Guerrilla Coordinating Board [CNG]. Using bazookas and mortars fired from the mountains, the guerrillas attacked this tower which serves as a relay station for the national Navy in this area in southwestern Colombia. The terrorist action took place early this morning. The guerrillas are clashing in the mountain range -- just 40 minutes from Dagua municipality, in Valle del Cauca Department -- with troops sent from Cali to reinforce the surveillance post of the Naval base.

The situation in (El Cremal) is critical, and the peasants are fleeing the area. They are very afraid as a result of the bombings that began early this morning when the Army and the Navy tried to evict the subversives hiding in the dense jungle. There were no injuries in the terrorist action, General Hernan Jose Guzman Molina, commander of the 3d Brigade, has confirmed to Noticias Uno [title of newscast].

[Gusman Molina] The shooting apparently began at approximately 0330; it continued sporadically until approximately 0530. It was not continuous, but sporadic. The troops responded in an efficient manner.

[Arboleda] The Army concentrated its action in Dagua, and from there its special assault forces, with the support of armored personnel carriers, are pursuing the approximately 100 guerrillas led by Oscar [not further identified] who have been entrenched in the area for several months.

[Aldemar Gonzalez, from the National Enterprise for Telecommunications] There was heavy shooting. The bullets were flying all over the pace. We had to face that, and did the best we could do. Thank God, none of us was hurt. [end relay]

17 KILLED IN RECENT REBEL-ARMY CLASHES

PA011844 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2336 GMT 28 Feb 87

[Excerpt] Bogota, 28 Feb (EFE) -- At least 17 people, including policemen, soldiers, guerrillas, and criminals were killed today in a new violent wave that is shaking various areas of Colombia.

Authorities reported that seven policemen, two soldiers, at least five rebels, and three criminals in Bogota were killed during actions carried out by guerrilla forces in several regions of Colombia.

The most fierce action took place on the border of Valle del Cauca and Cauca Departments, to the southwest of the country, where members of the National Guerrilla Coordinating Board (CNG) clashed with military patrols belonging to the Army's 3d Brigade.

Soldiers of the 3d Army Brigade clashed with CNG rebels for more than 5 hours on a stretch of the Pan-American Highway joining Cali and Popayan known as Puente Guillermo Leon Valencia. Following the fighting, the 3d Brigade reported that a lieutenant and a noncommissioned officer, as well as five guerrillas, were killed.

The CNG is an armed coalition comprised, among others, of the M-19; Popular Liberation Army (EPL); National Liberation Army (ELN); and the Indian Quintin Lame group, which operates exclusively in the Valle del Cauca and Cauca Departments.

The 3d Brigade reported in the early evening that the military had controlled the situation, normalized vehicular traffic, and was pursuing insurgent columns in adjacent mountainous areas.

Simultaneously, in another area in the country's northeast, North Santander Department, a group of at least 50 ELN guerrillas attacked a police patrol in Cachira, killing a commander and two other policemen. Police sources said in Cucuta that the guerrillas, who carried out an incursion in Cachira, attacked a group of policemen patrolling the urban area, killing the commander in the municipality, noncommissioned officer Francisco Jairo Galeano, and agents Faustino Emilio Rocha and Tarsicio de Jesus Navarro Ruiz.

Reinforcements were sent to Cachira from Cucuta, capital of North Santander, in attempts to neutralize the escape of the alleged ELN insurgents.

Official sources reported that two policemen were killed by another guerrilla group, the EPL, to steal uniforms and regulation arms in Caldas Department, in the country's central section.

Authorities reported that in Manizales two agents were shot inside a passenger bus traveling from Neira to this city during an EPL attack.

The two policemen were identified as Jose Eduardo Munoz Amaya and Jose Rodrigo Vasquez.

Another policemen was also killed by unidentified people in the rural area of San Jose, Risaralda. He was identified as 23-year old Jose Herney Rios Salazar. The alleged insurgents seized his gun.

Also on Saturday morning, another guerrilla column made an incursion into a small town in Cesar Department. They fled after cutting off communications, looting business establishments, and shooting an agent whose name is unknown. [passage omitted]

BRIEFS

COCAINE, MARIJUANA SEIZURES -- A new blow has been dealt against organized cocaine and marijuana traffickers by specialized police agents, who confiscated 20 kilos of pure cocaine hidden in the trunk of a car. The vehicle was being taken to San Antonio del Tachira, Venezuela, by Ramiro Alfonso Avila, Gervasio Alberto Vega, and Gladys Elvira Alfonso, who were arrested. Police also confiscated 3,720 lbs of marijuana in Santander neighborhood, southern Bogota. Three men were arrested in the operation. Authorities destroyed the marijuana at noon today. [Summary] [Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 25 Feb 87 PA]

SPAIN'S EL PAIS REPORTS OPPOSITION CONFERENCE

PM021234 Madrid EL PAIS in Spanish 24 Feb 87 p 5

[Carlos Tarsitano report: "Paraguay Faces Challenge of Gaining Democracy"]

[Text] Madrid -- "Paraguay faces the historic challenge of gaining the pluralist democracy it has never known": This was said yesterday by Paraguayan author Augusto Roa Bastos, in exile for the past 4 decades, at the opening of the Madrid Meeting for Democracy in Paraguay. Roa Bastos is coordinator of the meeting at which representatives of Paraguayan opposition political and social groups will be analyzing Latin America's oldest dictatorship during the next 3 days.

Spanish Deputy Prime Minister Alfonso Guerra said that he hoped the meeting "will help to break the international conspiracy of silence that surrounds Paraguay."

Roa Bastos described the historical conditions under which General Alfredo Stroessner's autocratic regime emerged 33 years ago and also described the present situation in the country, having stressed the special significance of this meeting in Madrid. "Stroessner inaugurated a cycle of de facto governments in Latin America in 1954, though if you include the earlier process during which it emerged the country has experienced almost a half-century of authoritarianism," Rio Bastos said. He continued: "The major triumph of the dictatorship is to have established fear. The perverse nature of this regime lies not only in the deliberately unspectacular nature of its repressive violence -- unlike that of Pinochet in Chile, who flaunts it -- but also in the slow but lethal hidden work of corruption and disintegration."

However, behind "a thick curtain of silence, the country still exists," according to the author of "Son of Man" and "I, the Greatest." It is this "patient and difficult task," Roa Bastos added, that is the subject of this meeting, "at which Paraguay's men of action and of thought have come to initiate an open debate among themselves and with the international public."

The Paraguayan Government forbade some of the guests from leaving the country to attend the Madrid meeting, the first one abroad to bring together several of the social and political groups opposed to Alfredo Stroessner.

Alfonso Guerra mentioned these absences, expressing hope that the meeting would help "to replace the Paraguayan people's feeling of isolation with an awareness of international solidarity" with a peaceful transition to democracy. Guerra said that "within the context of the injustice and oppression" experienced by Paraguay, this solidarity must help the various political and social groups to establish "unity against the dictatorship, while observing pluralism for the sake of democracy." This unity, Guerra said, is necessary because "the dictatorial government creates confusion among its opponents."

In conclusion, the deputy prime minister said he hoped that Paraguay "will join the community of Latin American nations that have regained democracy."

The meeting, which began yesterday, is being held under the auspices of the Spanish Socialist Workers Party and the Pablo Iglesias Foundation, with the cooperation of Spain's Latin American Cooperation Institute, the Swedish International Development Authority, Switzerland's International Foundation for Development Alternatives, and the FRG's Friedrich Ebert Foundation.

In the meetings, participants will analyze and discuss in separate sessions Paraguay's economic, political, and cultural situation and its social movements and media.

LAINO TO MAKE NEW ATTEMPT TO ENTER COUNTRY

PY021334 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 28 Feb 87 p 8

[Text] Domingo Laino, vice president of the Authentic Radical Liberal Party, will reportedly again try to return to Paraguay. This time he will accompany a group of Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party congressmen who will be visiting the country from 5 to 7 March.

ARMED FORCES PLEDGE LOYALTY TO STROESSNER

PY021415 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 27 Feb 87 pp 6, 7

[Excerpts] President Stroessner yesterday morning attended a ceremony held at the National Pantheon. The ceremony marked another anniversary of the return to the fatherland of then-Colonel Alfredo Stroessner and the 75th anniversary of the death of General Bernardino Caballero, the founder of the National Republican Association-Colorado Party.

The ceremony was attended by cabinet ministers, congressmen, generals and admirals, senior officers, the chairman and members of the Colorado Party Executive Board, high-ranking civilian and military officials, and prominent citizens. [passage omitted]

The ceremony was opened by Brigadier General Victor Antonio Aguilera Torres, commander of the 1st Cavalry Division, who spoke in the name of the Armed Forces. [passage omitted]

Gen Aguilera Torres said: "Today, 26 February, is a historic date for two reasons. On this day, the glorious Armed Forces want to pay tribute to Gen Bernardino Caballero, who passed into immortality 75 years ago. He was warrior, a statesman, and the first rebuilder of the fatherland. At the same time, they want to reaffirm their unshakable loyalty to their commander in chief, General Alfredo Stroessner, an illustrious statesman and the second rebuilder of the fatherland, who returned to our country 38 years ago to lead with faith and patriotism the promising future of the noble, heroic Paraguayan people." [passage omitted]

PEASANTS DENOUNCE REMOVAL FROM LANDS BY TROOPS

PY181152 Paris AFP in Spanish 0415 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] Asuncion, 25 Feb (AFP) -- About 1,500 Paraguayan peasants have been moved off the land they were occupying and had their houses burned down by soldiers who resorted to using unnecessary violence, according to the peasants. The peasants said this today in Asuncion during a news conference in which they denounced the action.

The land, located in the Mayor Otano colony, 500 km southeast of Asuncion, belongs to two Germans who live in Europe and who, according to the peasants, hire Brazilian citizens to carry out repressive actions against farmers who refuse to abandon their farms.

The majority of those who were evacuated occupied the land about 3 years ago after they were guaranteed that it was state property.

Security forces began harassing the peasants in the last half of 1986 when the Germans appeared and demanded that the peasants leave the land.

One of the peasants, Leon Bareiro, reported that in the first raid, which was conducted without any warning, the troops burned 10 houses and in another raid they destroyed 200 more. He also said that all their animals and crops were either confiscated, killed, or brutally destroyed. He added that the only explanation they gave us was that it was in keeping with orders from above.

DEBT RENEGOTIATION REPORTEDLY UNDER WAY WITH BRAZIL

PY190052 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 18 Feb 87 p 9

[Text] Industry and Commerce Minister Delfin Ugarte Centurion yesterday was received by the president of the Republic, General Alfredo Stroessner. After the meeting, Ugarte Centurion spoke to journalists assigned to Government Palace. He first confirmed a report published by our newspaper on 15 February that the foreign debt with Brazil is being renegotiated.

The minister explained: "Yes, indeed. During the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI) meeting in Montevideo negotiations were held concerning our foreign debt with Brazil and agreement was reached on the terms, which should be formalized between the two nations before 31 March."

Asked about the conditions initially agreed upon, Ugarte Centurion said that "the terms proposed by our delegation will be applied -- that is, the deadlines will be extended for several years, including the grace periods, so that the country has greater leeway to fulfill its financial commitments."

Asked whether the extension of the deadlines implies increased indebtedness because of the rescheduling, Ugarte Centurion said that this is correct because such an increase is involved in the rescheduling.

In response to persistent questions by journalists, the industry and commerce minister announced that the foreign debt with Brazil totals some $500 million. He said that Brazil is our main creditor, holding 25 percent of our foreign debt. (In late 1986, Minister Ugarte said that the overall Paraguayan foreign debt totaled $1.89 billion)

Before leaving for Washington, where he has been participating since last Monday in a meeting of Inter-American Development Bank (DBI) governors, [Central Bank Chairman] Dr Cesar Romeo Acosta told EL DIARIO that "the renegotiation of our foreign debt, especially with Brazil, will bring relief to our financial situation." Romeo Acosta also stated that negotiations are under way to renegotiate the foreign debt with international private banks.

TERRORISTS' BODIES FOUND IN PRISON DEBRIS

PY021431 Paris AFP in Spanish 1454 GMT 27 Feb 87

[Text] Lima, 27 Feb (AFP) -- Today the Ministry of the Navy officially confirmed in Lima that the bodies of 29 terrorists, involved in the El Fronton Penitentiary riots, were found under the debris at the penitentiary. The prison is located on an island off Lima's shore.

In January, 10 other bodies were found under the rubbish of the so-called blue cell block, where the imprisoned terrorists dug tunnels before rioting in June 1986.

The riots occurred in three Lima penitentiaries and nearly 300 inmates were killed in the subsequent military operation ordered by the government of Social Democratic President Alan Garcia. The riots coincided with a world congress of the Socialist International (SI).

The offical Navy communique, which confirmed the belated finding of these bodies, is related to the recent finding of some 30 graves in the suburban Pachacamac Cemetery. The graves are marked as NN which indicates the bodies are unidentified. The Navy communique explained that since these bodies could not be identified they were designated as NN in accordance with the law.

6 SHINING PATH GUERRILLAS DIE IN CLASH IN AYACUCHO

PY021418 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0239 GMT 28 Feb 87

[Text] Lima, 27 Feb (EFE) -- It was reported today in Lima that six presumed members of the Shining Path terrorist group have died in an armed confrontation with an Army patrol in Ayacucho Department. A communique released by the Peruvian Armed Forces Joint Command states that the confrontation took place on 20 February in the Juallhua region, La Mar Province. The brief communique adds that the Army patrol confronted "a group of subversive criminals" and that six of the subversives died. They have not yet been identified. It adds that weapons, explosives, and propaganda were seized.

4 KILLED, 8 INJURED IN LATEST TERRORIST ATTACKS

PY271610 Paris AFP in Spanish 1336 GMT 27 Feb 87

[Text] Lima, 27 Feb (AFP) -- The Peruvian Civil Guard today reported that 4 people were killed and 8 were injured in the latest wave of terrorist attacks in Ayacucho, Lima, and Trujillo, and that 11 banks, 6 offices of the ruling APRA [American Popular Revolutionary Alliance] Party, 6 public offices, and 2 cooperatives were damaged. Almost all the attacks were staged by Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) guerrillas between last night and this morning, the police said.

In Ayachucho, a guerrilla stronghold 570 km southwest of Lima, a guerrilla column attacked the town of Santa Rosa, La Mar Province, and killed 4 peasant leaders after submitting them to a people's trial during which they were charged with collaborating with the antisubversive forces.

In Huancayo, 312 km east of Lima, the terrorists last night blew up three high-tension electric towers, thereby blacking out that important commercial sector in the Central Andean region for several hours. Four public offices also were dynamited.

In Trujillo, 542 km to the north, MRTA guerrillas and their allies in the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR) hurled bombs at two ruling party offices, injuring 8 people, 3 of them seriously. There were 60 youths attending a political lecture in one of the offices, police said.

In several places in Lima, Tupac Amaru guerrillas staged attacks against 10 branches of the Banco de Credito, which is a private bank, an office of the state bank, and a water supply service office. The terrorists also attacked the APRA offices in Comas, Collique, Chorrillos, and Rimac, and the Pio XII and Los Chancas cooperatives, in the port of Callao and in the densely populated sector of El Agustino, respectively. The PARA office in Rimac houses a people's hospital. The Civil Guard reported that in Chiclayo, 752 km to the north, 10 MRTA guerrillas yesterday occupied the Lambayeque and Pedro Ruiz Gallo Universities, where they called upon students to join the armed struggle. The terrorists left a bomb at the Lambayeque University, but the police deactivated it.

POLICE CONDUCT OPERATION AGAINST DRUG PRODUCERS

PY021744 Paris AFP in Spanish 0442 GMT 28 Feb 87

[Text] Lima, 27 Feb (AFP) -- Peruvian authorities reported today that some 100 policemen -- specially trained in the struggle against drug traffficking -- supported by three Air Force helicopters, this week completed an operation against cocaine producers in the Amazon River basin.

This operation was carried out in the towns of Bella, Inti, Sachavaca, Venenillo, and others, some 550 km northeast of Lima. The zone is located west of the city of Tingo Maria, the center of the drug traffickers' activities in the Peruvian jungle.

Police reported that approximately 10,000 kg of coca leaves being processed into cocaine paste were seized. Some laboratories and other installations were discovered and destroyed with dynamite by police. The elements used in the manufacturing of the drug were also destroyed. There was no report of any detentions.

ECUADORAN CITIZEN ARRESTED ON ESPIONAGE CHARGES

PY271939 Paris AFP in Spanish 1446 GMT 27 Feb 87

[Text] Lima, 27 Feb (AFP) -- Security Organization authorities reported here today that police have arrested an Ecuadoran citizen in the Peruvian city of Sullana. The suspect is charged with espionage. The individual, a 30-year-old man, admitted that his real name is Santos Roberto. According to police, he used a false birth certificate to obtain a voter's card that identified him as Peruvian Wilder Roman Medina Espinoza.

The arrest was made in Sullana, 1,050 km north of Lima, by Civil Guard agents who were suspicious of his frequent trips to the Ecuadoran town of Macara.

The report states that Vera Valdez had been supplying information to Ecuador about Peruvian garrison and troop movements along the border region. These reports are being investigated by the state's security police.

SANGUINETTI, GUATEMALA'S CEREZO SIGN DECLARATION

PY021910 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0156 GMT 28 Feb 87

[Text] Montevideo, 27 Feb (EFE) -- The presidents of Guatemala and Uruguay, Vinicio Cerezo and Julio Maria Sanguinetti, respectively, today expressed the need to strengthen the inter-American system and expressed their confidence in finding a negotiated solution to the Central American problem. In a joint declaration the two presidents expressed "their satisfaction over the successful democratization process in Latin America."

The two presidents also reaffirmed "their unconditional respect for international laws as principles with which to rule international relations, especially those dealing with the equality of the states, their independence, their sovereignty, the self-determination of nations, noninterference, and nonintervention."

Cerezo and Sanguinetti expressed their support for the UN efforts for international peace and security, respect for human rights and civil liberties, and, especially, for the peaceful solution to international conflict. Cerezo will end his official visit to Uruguay tomorrow, but will remain until Sunday [1 March], traveling to the tourist resort of Punta del Este and to a farm.

In the joint declaration, the two presidents also expressed their concern over "the serious crisis in the region" and reiterated their confidence in the actions of Contadora and its support Group, and "the peace mission undertaken recently by the foreign ministers with the participation of the UN and OAS Secretaries General." Cerezo and Sanguinetti also expressed in the declaration "their faith that beyond the current problems of the pacifying process, the spirit of reconciliation and good will of the peoples and the governments of the region will always be present to achieve peace."

Regarding the foreign debt, "they reaffirmed their support to the proposals of the Consensus of Cartagena," to find a political solution to the problem. The two presidents also "reaffirmed their conviction that a pluralist democracy is the only politicel system in which all guarantees granted by the state of law are enforced."

In the field of bilateral relations, the presidents expressed "their decision to use all means at their disposal to strengthen Uruguayan-Guatemalan friendship and relations between the two nations."

They promised "to promote a greater cultural rapprochement" and "to make efforts to achieve the expansion of trade." To achieve these goals, the foreign ministers of the two countries today signed in Montevideo four agreements on cultural exchange, technical cooperation, the suppression of consular visas, and economic and commercial relations.

Cerezo Comments on L.A. Issues

PY022009 Paris AFP in Spanish 0319 GMT 28 Feb 87

[Text] Montevideo, 27 Feb (AFP) -- Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo today urged Latin American countries to take a common stand on the foreign debt issue because this issue has become critical for the Latin American nations. In comments made in Montevideo after an official 48-hour visit to Uruguay, Cerezo also stated that it is necessary to exhaust diplomatic efforts to pacify Central America, and to prevent a conflict between East and West.

The Guatemalan chief of state said that the true situation makes the debt problem appear not as a rhetorical question but as something that must be solved. Cerezo pointed out that the problem now is that the creditor countries do not dare to make a proposal and we, the debtor countries, have not agreed on a suitable proposal. Brazil's temporary inability to make payments (...) [AFP ellipsis], the decision from Lima to pay only a percentage (of its gross domestic product), and Mexico's difficulty to pay interest are paving the way for a decision, Cerezo noted.

Cerezo said the solution must be achieved by realistically discussing the issue because an economic collapse of the banking system of the creditor countries could prompt a crisis similar to that of the 1930's or even worse. There are different proposals to tackle the issue, however, as long as a decision is not made our countries are committed to individual efforts, he said.

Cerezo said that there are various possibilities involving collective negotiations on the debt or a collective position which would be much more effective. Cerezo stated that there is a pressing need to reach agreement among the debtor countries because, in his opinion, the debt is becoming a critical point of the Central American crisis and the relationship between the nations.

Concerning the possibility of a conflict in Central America, Cerezo said that his government pursues a neutral policy. He stated, however, that this does not involve an ideological neutrality because we believe in democracy and pluralism. Democracy and pluralism involve ideological respect for other governments in the area, Cerezo pointed out.

The Guatemalan president advocated a process to reach agreement via diplomatic channels. Cerezo said that the spreading of a conflict and the closing of diplomatic channels -- like accepting the contras as the only way -- would necessarily lead to an East-West conflict. The idea is to demonstrate that the Central American conflict goes beyond the United States of America and Nicaragua, because any problem originating in one country could prompt a regional crisis, Cerezo emphasized.

Cerezo stated that it is necessary to create a forum for dialogue and consensus and he proposed the creation of a Central American parliament. Cerezo pointed out that the creation of such a Central American parliament would permit the holding of normal elections, which has already been accepted by the Central American nations including Nicaragua. This would open and consolidate political freedom within each country and would create a forum which would relax tensions, Cerezo concluded.

BRIEFS

AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH PERU -- Montevideo, 26 Feb (AFP) -- Local sources said here today that Peru and Uruguay have signed an agreement to remove the visa requirement for diplomatic, special, and official passports. The agreement establishes that the holders of such passports will be free to remain in Peruvian or Uruguayan territory for a period of months, and that members of their diplomatic corps will be able to stay without visas for as long as they remain in their diplomatic post. [Summary] [Paris AFP in Spanish 1347 GMT 26 Feb 87 PY]

DRUG TRAFFIC, COUNTERFEIT CONNECTIONS EXPOSED

FL021658 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1651 GMT 1 Mar 87

[Text] Mexico City, 1 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- The Federal Judicial Police [PJF] arrested five people at Mexico City's International Airport today as they attempted to smuggle a lot of forged dollars into the country. Units from the PJF's Tiger Group declined to reveal the identity of the arrested, who arrived from Cali, Colombia, but noted that Mexico City is being flooded with counterfeit U.S. dollars.

It was reported that investigations began in early January, when Guatemalan nationals Laura Marcela Quezada y Suiza and Laura Marcela Alfaro Quezada were arrested as they attempted to smuggle 1.11 kg of cocaine and $10,000 in counterfeit money into Mexico City. The PJF learned that the Guatemalans, who arrived from Medellin, Colombia, purchased $40,000 in counterfeit money from a man by the name of Roberto Martinez, and that the money would be used to buy cocaine in Mexico City and resell it in the United States.

The Tiger Group also arrested Athie Llarena with $27,000 in forged $100 bills. During interrogation it was learned that the Guatemalans had given Llarena that money in exchange for cocaine. From there, investigations led to the discovery of $10,000 in forged money at the Eastern Penitentiary. The PJF has reported that investigations will continue to prevent counterfeit dollars from circulating further as well as the smuggling of narcotics by air.

FOREIGN SECRETARIAT EXAMINES SIMPSON-RODINO LAW

FL022158 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1807 GMT 2 Mar 87

[Text] Mexico City, 2 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- The effects that the Simpson-Rodino U.S. immigration law will have on Mexico will be examined during a meeting called by the Mexico Foreign Secretariat.

The Foreign Secretariat said that additional measures Mexican authorities will adopt to ensure timely and effectively attention to the needs of illegal Mexican aliens will also be discussed at the meeting. It reported that attempts will be made to improve the Consular protection system and establish rules for an overall coordination system and establish rules for an overall coordination system between the various Mexican consular offices in the United States.

Meanwhile, the Foreign Secretariat said that it is in close contact with U.S. authorities involved in the enforcement of the Simpson-Rodino law to guarantee protection and defense for Mexicans living in the United States as well as of their human and labor rights.

The meeting began today and will last 3 days. Jorge Espinosa de los Reyes, Mexican ambassador to the United States, and Consuls General Oscar Araiza Lopez of New Orleans, Martin Brito Hernandez of Chicago, Illinois, Fernando Buj Flores of El Paso, Texas, and Javier Escobar Cordoba of San Diego, California, are participating in the meeting.

COSTA RICA'S ARIAS BLAMES NICARAGUA FOR TENSION

PA011601 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 27 Feb 87 pp 1, 18

[By Alberto Carbot]

[Text] Costa Rican President Oscar Arias Sanchez yesterday told this newspaper that Nicaragua is the reason for the current tension between his country and the Mexican Government. He also said that his people are disappointed with the Sandinist regime "which promised a democracy that it has not yet delivered in Nicaragua" and for this reason, "any government that identifies with the current Nicaraguan administration is -- in the opinion of the Costa Rican people -- against my country."

Arias Sanchez was interviewed shortly before the conclusion of the first day of his official visit to Mexico. He admitted that "tense relations between Mexico and Costa Rica are more evident" in the news media, "because we Costa Ricans are hypersensitive." He explained, however, that one of the objectives of his trip to Mexico "is to renew or reiterate our feelings of brotherhood to the Mexican Government and people, and to explain that Costa Rica's new proposal has no other objective than to promote peace in Central America as soon as possible."

He was asked: Mr President, the people are giving certain explanations as to why Costa Rica's peace proposal -- a product of the San Jose summit meeting of 15 February -- was not delivered directly to the Contadora Group and annexed to the original [Contadora] document. In the eyes of the people, Costa Rica appears as the seed of discord for refusing to seek a global and broad solution that would include all the parties involved in the process. Don't you feel that way?

Arias answered: "No, of course not. Looking at it that way is twisting the truth, because Contadora always functioned in the framework of the vacuum that existed in Central America, and it always preached that it was necessary for the Central American countries to act. What cannot be understood is why, now that Costa Rica is acting, it is being criticized -- that is, we are damned if we do and damned if we don't.

"What we did was to take the initiative and make a very Costa Rican proposal based on our belief that the peace we all want cannot be secured without democracy. This is why our proposal emphasizes the political aspect, the need to promote a democratization process in those countries where there is no democracy, and, especially, the need to act, to move from words to deeds. This is what is new about the Costa Rican initiative."

The Central American president said that the Costa Rican disgust with the current Nicaraguan Government is nothing but the product of the disappointment that the Sandinists provoked when they ignored their original plans.

He said: "It would be difficult to find a country that became as involved as Costa Rica did during the war against Anastasio Somoza. Those who are governing Nicaragua now lived with us for many years, and we unconditionally lent them our territory to enable them to overthrow the Somozist regime.

"We always thought that one big reason for overthrowing Somoza was to return democracy to the Nicaraguans so that they could enjoy a pluralist regime and exercise liberties without restriction. This definitely is not what Nicaragua has right now.

"This is why our people are disappointed and unsatisfied with what is currently happening in that country. This is why any government that agrees with the Sandinist regime is, in my opinion and that of the Costa Rican people, against my country.

"I would say that this Manichean position is what makes us hypersensitive. This has certainly produced tension between Costa Rica and Mexico."

Later the Costa Rican president, dressed causally and sitting in a comfortable armchair in the presidential suite of the hotel where he is staying, spoke about Contadora.

"It is true that we acknowledge the mediation of Contadora without misgivings, and we are grateful for the efforts and work that the foreign ministers of the nations of that group have made during the very long 4 years of efforts to achieve peace in Central America. That work has been good, and now we are adding a new element, establishing a timetable. [no closing quotation marks as published]

He was asked: In other words, you already know what you have to do?

He answered: "This is evident. Costa Rica is not inventing an umbrella with its 10-point proposal. To a large extent that proposal was inspired by Contadora. What we have done is to combine the various Contadora documents, especially the document of September 1983, which lists 21 objectives and which was issued in Panama and signed by the five Central American governments. That document speaks of the need for democratizing the entire region. If you are familiar with the Costa Rican 10-point proposal you will realize that emphasis is being put on the political aspect."

Then the Costa Rican president was asked: Mr President, are you afraid of what some sectors could think of you and your government, because of the Costa Rican proposal? Or that some Latin American circles could view that proposal as reactionary?

Arias Sanchez smiled. He touched his legs with his hands and rose quickly to say: "I think we have talked too long, and I am in a hurry." He then walked to his room without saying anything else.

Arias on Foreign Debt

PA012341 Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 27 Feb 87 p 10

[Article by Roberto Rodriguez]

[Text] Costa Rican President Oscar Arias Sanchez, commenting on economic and financial resources and their relation to progress and development, pointed out yesterday that: "renegotiation of foreign debt is necessary if we want to improve our people's standard of living."

President Arias was interviewed as he was leaving the Basilica of Guadalupe, which he visited with his family and several Costa Rican officials. He stated that presently the foreign debt of Mexico ($100 billion), Brazil (4108 billion), Argentina, and Costa Rica "is like a sword of Damocles that prevents a speedy achievement of social and economic development for our peoples."

The Costa Rican president said: "Until we obtain better payment conditions for the Latin American foreign debt -- more than $400 billion plus accumlated interest -- it will be difficult to achieve the growth rates that we had in previous years."

The Costa Rican president added that social and economic development of the nations in the region, or of any other country, is not easily attainable. He added: "If it were easy, there wouldn't be poor people or nations."

He added that if the development of countries weren't a complicated problem, social and economic inequalities wouldn't exist either. President Arias started his working tour of this country early yesterday.

On the same subject, the Costa Rican president said that one thing that is true today is that if we want to achieve developmernt for the Latin American nations we must all live in peace, because this starting point and aspiration of humanity "allows internal savings and labor to be used to meet the people's most urgent necessities, such as education, health, housing, electricity, roads, and nutrition."

Oscar Arias Sanchez said all of the above are rights that are required for people to live decently and not "like Central America, where thousands of millions of pesos or dollars are spent to arm armies, buy tanks, and obtain helicopters and planes, instead of constructing a strong infrastructure for our people's welfare."

Joint Communique Released

PA280416 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 28 Feb 87

[Text] Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid and Costa Rican President Oscar Arias Sanchez held their second round of talks this afternoon at the Los Pinos presidential house. Both leaders talked for more than 1 hour, and at the end of the meeting the official farewell ceremony was held.

In a joint communique released by both governments, it is mentioned that the talks were held in a friendly atmosphere. The joint communique also states that trade, financial, foreign debt, and scientific cooperation agreements were signed. Mexico and Costa Rica signed an agreement for the restructuration of Costa Rica's foreign debt with Mexico, and a financial cooperation agreement.

Tariff concessions for Costa Rican imports were brought up to date. Mexico and Costa Rica also signed an agreement for the promotion of trade that seeks to eliminate obstacles in bilateral trade.

Within the framework of the San Jose Treaty, both leaders agreed to implement the necessary measures to carry out joint actions regarding Mexican assistance to improve Costa Rica's refineries. Mexico agreed to continue selling liquid gas and asphalt to Costa Rica. Both countries also signed agreements on agricultural matters.

In a news conference, Costa Rican President Oscar Arias Sanchez said that Mexico and Costa Rica agreed that peace can be achieved in Central America through a dialogue. Arias denied that Costa Rica had allowed its territory to be used for actions against Nicaragua, and he explained that his country has never been threatened if it refused to allow an airstrip to be used. He said it is not true that the United States had threatened to cut $80 million in aid to the Costa Rican Government. Arias said that Costa Rica is disappointed in Daniel Ortega's government, but it will never allow its territory to be used to attack another country.

Differences on Peace Plan

PA280346 Paris AFP in Spanish 0221 GMT 28 Feb 87

[Text] Mexico City, 27 Feb (AFP) -- Costa Rican President Oscar Arias announced here today that the Mexican Government does not agree with the peace proposals for Central America which was presented by Costa Rica in mid-February, because the text emphasizes the need for democracy in all the countries of the area, and Mexico believes that no one should recommend what political system should be adopted in each nation.

The Costa Rican president said in a news conference that the difference between his country and Mexico concerning the proposal -- which was approved by El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala -- concerns the nuance of words, because the rest of the initiative coincides with the Contadora Group's objectives.

PETRICIOLI SAYS $1.1 BILLION LOAN REPAID

PA191711 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] The Finance and Public Credit Secretariat and the Bank of Mexico revealed tonight that Mexico has already paid the loan for $1.1 billion dollars which the international banking community had granted last August.

The funds were loaned by the Central Banks of 16 countries and the U.S. Treasury Department. The bridge loan was granted to Mexico to tide it over until it could obtain the loans negotiated with international banks.

Gustavo Petricioli, finance secretary, said that Mexico was able to pay due to the favorable evolution of its payments balance. He added that the loans to be granted by foreign commercial banks will be formalized in March.

ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT REPORTS ON TRIP ABROAD

PA021929 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 2 Mar 87 p 14

[Article by Carlos J. Nunez L. -- all quotation marks as published]

[Text] On his return to Panama, Legislative Assembly President Ovidio Diaz Vasquez said: It was a highly productive tour. I think the Panamanian Parliament has gained stature as a result of the visit to the PRC, India, and the USSR.

Ovidio Diaz, who arrived in Panama early Sunday morning [1 March] commented that "in the three countries we found great acceptance regarding two topics: Panama's political proposals, and the strengthening of trade relations with those three great states."

In China, for example, we had the opportunity to talk with high-ranking parliamentary representatives of a country of 1.1 billion people. They do not want diplomatic relations to be "imposed." They are understanding and are very realistic about the Panamanian political situation.

We were also received with high honors in India, that great friendly nation with 800 million people. Although it has huge pockets of poverty that are not seen in the PRC or the USSR, India, a Third World country, has the technology that can be applied in Third World countries such as Panama, especially against unemployment. [sentence as published]

We were also warmly received in the Soviet Union. The Soviets are interested in having their airline, Aeroflot, arrive in Panama not to pick up passengers but to transport their seamen from the fishing fleet, because the Soviet Union has approximately 400 fishing ships in the Pacific area. They will pay in strong currencies such as the U.S. dollar. They would also make purchases in the local market for their crews.

Since we had to go by way of London to travel to the Soviet Union, we took advantage of this stopover, because Ambassador Guillermo Vega organized a dinner for us with a member of the House of Commons. The British, Ovidio Diaz said, are very interested in improving their image in Central America.

The Panamanian legislative delegation also made a technical stopover in Hong Kong where it held a meeting with the Chamber of Commerce in this technological world center. "There we saw Mr Maduro of the Association of Users of Colon Free Zone who was also on a working tour," Diaz Vasquez added.

Returning to the topic of the Colon Free Zone, the president of the Legislative Assembly stressed that the PRC is very interested in expanding its radius of action in the Colon Free Zone. This is part of a big experiment of being carried out in the PRC. Just as we find collective ownership of the means of production, we also find that they have opened a large sector to private enterprise. We will give a more extensive report on this to our people in due time.

Diaz confirmed that as a Panamanian private businessman -- almost all of the other 11 legislators accompanying him are also businessmen -- they also found in the Soviet Union and India great support for giving the Panamanian businessmen the possibilities of broad markets. "We are going to study this with great care, but it is interesting."

Regarding the bahavior of the Panamanian delegation composed of members of all the parties represented in the Legislative Assembly, Ovidio Diaz commented very favorably on it, stating: "We have worked with respect for the views of the legislators from the various political parties. It has been a learning experience, and I believe we will obtain good results for our fellow citizens who, in the end, are the people to whom we have an obligation.

For their part, all the legislators who returned on Sunday with Diaz fully agreed in stating that the governments and legislative representatives of the PRC, India, and the Soviet Union expressed full support for the Contadora Group's efforts for peace in Central America, denuclearization, and peace.

MINISTER CRITICIZES U.S. GARMENT IMPORT QUOTA

PA281959 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 28 Feb 87 pp 1, A-16

[Article by staff writer Edmundo Dante Dolphy C.]

[Text] Jorge Federico Lee, minister of labor and social welfare, stated that the U.S. announcement of imposing on Panama an import quota of 1,564,000,000 synthetic fiber garments annually is ridiculous and rash. If this measure is adopted it would substantially damage the Panamanian textile industry as it would endanger new job openings that had been anticipated for the next 5 years.

Jorge Lee said that this drastic U.S. measure has been put into practice precisely when we have managed to attract investments in textiles. These investments are reflected in the establishment in our country of garment factories that have been successful in their export activities. They meet all the U.S. export regulations, one of which is that the garment be totally manufactured in Panama.

The minister of labor and social welfare rejected the U.S. accusations that these exports endanger the internal U.S. market. Lee said, "I believe this is ridiculous and false." He added that "1,564,000,000 annually does not upset the internal market of one single city of the United States."

Lee considers that this decision must be rectified, because if it is not, a tremendous blow will be dealt to our hopes of generating jobs.

He pointed out that we must bear in mind that garment making is the most successful field that we have had in the last few years. It has helped to mitigate the unemployment problem in Panama and Colon.

COSTA RICA

PRESIDENT DENIES U.S. PRESSURE ON USE OF AIRPORT

PA030145 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0046 GMT 3 Mar 87

[Text] San Jose, 2 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- President Oscar Arias Sanchez today denied having been pressured by the United States to allow the "contras" use of a Costa Rican airport near the Nicaraguan border.

Arias Sanchez arrived at 1600 after concluding an official visit to Mexico that began last Wednesday [25 February].

The president was asked about the "contras" allegedly using an airport in Costa Rican territory, as disclosed by the Tower Commission that investigated the United States selling weapons to Iran. President Arias stated that during his administration that landing strip has not been used by the anti-Sandinists.

He said it is "absolutely false" that the United States has pressured him or has conditioned financial resources to the use of that landing strip -- that is located in Potrero Grande, Liberia, near the Nicaraguan border -- for logistic support for the "contras."

When he assumed the Presidency last May, he said: "I categorically insisted to Arthur Lewis Tambs (U.S. ambassador to Costa Rica until last year) that the airport would not be used during my administration," Arias Sanchez stated.

The president said that when he announced he would be neutral and that he was opposed to the use of Costa Rican territory by the insurgent forces to fight against Central American governments "it was a frank and sincere decision that does not allow any exceptions."

The president added: "That territory will not be used with my consent, tolerance, or agreement, and we are going to be very strict with the contras, the foreigners, and the nationals who violate our wishes to remain neutral and prevent the use of our territory" by anti-Sandinist groups.

The president said he had not yet completely read the Tower Commission report, but he said he will do so shortly, "particularly about everything concerning Central America and especially all that concerns Costa Rica."

Arias Sanchez said that meanwhile he was "very happy" with his trip to Mexico, and that the Mexican Government "has understood the Costa Rican ideas when we presented a peace proposal for Central America, and has supported" this plan.

"It was a very successful visit, and I believe it opens a new horizon for Costa Rica and Mexico," Arias Sanchez added.

Monge Explains Airport's Construction

PA030026 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2311 GMT 2 Mar 87

[Text] San Jose, 2 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- Former President Luis Alberto Monge Alvarez asserted today that he ordered the construction of a landing strip in northern Costa Rica -- on the Nicaraguan border -- "to safeguard the homeland's higher interests."

The former president said: "I assume full responsibility for the decision, which was adopted to safeguard the homeland's higher interests, as a precaution, given the danger that Costa Rica might have been invaded" by the EPS.

Monge Alvarez, who was president of Costa Rica during 1982-86, thus responded to the information issued last week by the Tower Commission, which is investigating the sales of U.S. weapons to Iran and the diversion of funds from these sales to the Nicaraguan "contras." He was also responding to the demands issued by Costa Rican deputies who asked him to clarify the situation.

The commission asserted that the former president, who concluded his term in May 1986, authorized the construction of this landing strip on Potrero Grande de Liberia, a few kilometers from the Nicaraguan border; the landing strip was used to give the anti-Sandinist groups logistic support.

Monge issued a news communique today and stated that there is nothing to hide about the case, "which was been misconstrued by international communist propaganda, and has incredibly managed to impress certain U.S. officials and newspapers."

Monge explained in the communique that missions sent by President Ronald Reagan's administration during Monge's administration warned him about the danger of a "Sandinist invasion through the border sector."

"The first mission of U.S. officials did not convince me that the Sandinist Army would invade Costa Rica if Nicaragua were attacked by U.S. troops or if an armed conflict rose with Honduras," the communique states.

A second mission, plus the statements issued by a former Sandinist security agent who escaped to Costa Rica, "led me to believe that the danger was real and that we had to take the minimum precautions to defend ourselves, while we received aid from friendly states and implemented the inter-American juridical system's mechanisms."

Parliamentary members of the government's National Liberation Party, of which Monge is a member; and the Social Christian opposition agreed last weekend on the need for the former president to present explanations about the use of this landing strip.

He asserted: "It is not a military airport; it is a rural airport that was built as a precaution to defend Costa Rica in the event of an invasion."

The former Social Democratic president added: "We never thought that this rural airport could be used to give military support to the forces that struggle inside Nicaragua against the government in Managua."

President Oscar Arias Sanchez, Monge's successor, ordered the airport's closure when he assumed the presidency on 8 May 1986.

Deputy Discusses Tower Report

PA022036 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 2 Mar 87

[Text] Deputy Luis Manuel Chacon has said that if in fact there were pressures from the U.S. Government on Costa Rica, President Oscar Arias should have told the country at the proper time, because now that the Tower Commission has made this information public, Costa Rica will have a bad image. Chacon said that this report is not beneficial for the country's reputation, adding that it is time for the country to find out who is responsible for this. The United Social Christian Party leader said that the first one who should be criticized is former President Luis Alberto Monge.

Deputy Carlos Araya Guillen said that the problem is not a military or political one, but a matter of national security.

Deputy Carlos Araya said that national security is currently at stake, because we are involved in a military conflict between two forces in Nicaragua. Araya said that he was concerned about this national security problem, which is the president's responsibility. Araya said that upon reading the Irangate report, he could see that former President Monge was not telling the truth when he spoke about ethics, security, and other issues.

Deputy Chacon said that this situation is unfortunate and that the country should find out who is responsible for all this because the Costa Rican people need an explanation.

EL SALVADOR

MILITARY PREPARES FOR FMLN-FDR SABOTAGE

PA280048 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 26 Feb 87 pp 2, 27

[Text] Jorge Shafik Handal and Joaquin Villalobos, communist leaders of the terrorist FMLN-FDR, have met on the banks of the Supuri River, near the Honduran border, to plan a campaign of more violence involving acts of sabotage against the electricity system.

Meanwhile, the Armed Forces, which reported the meeting, are on the watch. They are conducting patrol missions, searches, and inspections. The military forces are fully aware of the fact that the FMLN and FDR are preparing to unleash this wave of violence.

The information about the Handal-Villalobos meeting was obtained by the Armed Forces' intelligence services. The plans of these terrorists will be countered by the Armed Forces with constant surveillance.

Regarding Saturday's fires in the capital, official spokemen said that the investigations continue and that, because of the style, characteristics, and circumstances, it can be stated that these were criminal actions by the terrorist groups.

Currently, security forces are deployed in several places throughout the capital and in the interior.

The intensive surveillance by the military and security forces is expected to reduce the activities of subversive FMLN and FDR.

REBELS DISTRIBUTE PEACE PROPOSAL AT UNIVERSITY

PA282209 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2010 GMT 28 Feb 87

[Text] San Salvador, 28 Feb (ACAN-EFE) -- Today, hooded youths suddenly interrupted a university meeting to hand out leaflets stating that the Salvadoran guerrillas are asking the government to resume the peace talks.

The incident took place while the university authorities were assessing the activities of the San Salvador National University, which is marking its 146th anniversary today. The university was under military occupation from 1980 to 1984.

The six-point communique which the guerrillas distributed insisted that the solution to the arms conflict "must be defined, sought after, and agreed upon among Salvadorans."

The FMLN and the FDR noted that all of the country's social forces must participate in drafting a peace proposal. This proposal entails the installation of a government of broad participation that would promote just social and economic measures.

The fronts would agree to a "cease-fire" when these "just measures" are promoted. The measures must be accompanied by a respect for human rights and a foreign policy based on peace with all the nations of the world.

In 1984, the government and the guerrillas participated in two rounds of negotiations to end the war which has been raging for 7 years. However, they did not reach an agreement and the talks have been interrupted ever since.

The university had scheduled a forum today to discuss the national crisis. For that reason, it had invited representatives from the government, the guerrillas, and private enterprise.

However, the exiled guerrilla leaders were unable to come because of threats that they could be arrested if they tried to enter the country. Meanwhile, the government and businessmen declined to participate, alleging that the forum was "biased."

University President Luis Argueta Antillon told ACAN-EFE after the meeting that although the government of Jose Napoleon Duarte "internationally enjoys a certain degree of prestige for respecting the democratic process, at home it is showing that it does not allow opposition politicians to express themselves."

"A sign respect for democracy" -- Argueta Antillon said -- "would have been to allow the guerrilla representatives to enter the country and explain their views."

However, Argueta Antillon said that "the university will not cease striving to find a peaceful resolution to the war."

"We believe that the university is one of the few institutions that can promote dialogue and negotiations," he said.

VENCEREMOS REPORTS U.S. HELICOPTERS' 'INCURSION'

PA021606 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 2 Mar 87

[Text] The U.S. Air Force continues to violate our airspace. This morning, 1 March, four Chinook helicopters of the U.S. Air Force coming from La Union Department flew over the Salvadoran coast in the Jucuaran area of Usulutan Department. They then continued their flight toward the west. This is the third time that U.S. helicopters have overflown Salvadoran territory. The current sabotage campaign by the FMLN is being undertaken to protest these incursions into Salvadoran skies by the Yankee Air Force.

ARMY, REBELS LIST FEB ATTACKS, CASUALTIES

PA022358 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2106 GMT 2 Mar 87

[Text] San Salvador, 2 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- According to reports issued by the two parties in conflict, 608 casualties resulted from clashes between the Salvadoran Army and the guerrillas during February.

The FMLN maintained a constant sabotage campaign during February against the electric system, as well as attacks and ambushes against Army posts throughout the country.

In addition, the Armed Forces strengthened their permanent counterinsurgency operations and the searches for rebel hideouts, particularly throughout the areas involved in the conflict.

According to the Armed Forces, during February the FMLN sustained 74 dead and 66 wounded; 9 of its members deserted; and it lost 85 rifles, 1 Uzi submachinegun, 160 grenades, 11 rounds for 81-mm mortars, 1 round for RPG-2 rocket launchers, 230 mines, and 2 communication radios.

According to the Coprefa report, the rebels killed 25 peasants, wounded 39, and kidnapped 62 throughout Salvadoran territory; they also attacked 57 vehicles and set fire to a coffee farm.

The FMLN reported through the clandestine station Radio Venceremos that it had caused 459 Army casualties during several actions.

According to the clandestine station, 175 of the Army casualties were caused "during 11 large-scale ambushes against military convoys," which were perpetrated by special FMLN units.

The guerrillas also asserted that during February they damaged 3 U.S.-made military helicopters, specifically in Chalatenango and Morazan Departments; and destroyed 115 electric poles, towers, and transformers.

Official sources reported that FMLN militants blew up two electric towers in eastern Usulutan Department during the weekend, causing blackouts in dozens of towns.

According to the sources, four additional poles supporting high-voltage cables were destroyed by the guerrillas last night in the jurisdiction of Guazapa, 24 km north of the capital. A large sector of the zone was left without electricity.

GUATEMALA

ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER ON REPORTED UK INCURSION

PA271936 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] President Vinicio Cerezo today expressed his concern over the UK military presence on the Malvinas Islands, stating that this creates a center of tension in that area. Cerezo stated this today in Buenos Aires when he met with Argentine President Raul Alfonsin. Nevertheless, in contrast with the Guatemalan president's concern about the presence of British soldiers on the Malvinas, the Guatemalan Government has yet to verify charges made last week by farmer Carlos Ralda, who reported the presence of British troops in Peten. Acting Foreign Minister Julio Martini today commented on Raldas' charges:

[Begin recording] [Martini] I have learned of this through the Defense Ministry, which is in charge of our sovereignty at that actual level in which this type of incursion you mentioned might have taken place. However, it was not really established that there was an incursion. There were comments that some British soldiers were going around there [words indistinct] but nothing concrete has been established about whether this really occurred. [words indistinct] The statements of the minister have been clear in stating that this is not taking place.

[Unidentified reporter] [Words indistinct] government to government?

[Martini] We have a directorate of Central American and Caribbean Affairs that handles matters dealing with Belize. As far as I know, there has been no government to government conversation in this regard with Great Britain because there has been no reason to have one. [end recording]

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZER BEATEN

PA010022 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 1230 GMT 28 Feb 87

[Text] Several unidentified men severely beat Leticia Molina Martinez, who is actively organizing the Guatemala branch of Amnesty International. The attack took place at Elena Avenue and 13th Street, Zone One. The attackers told her she must leave the country because otherwise she would be in grave danger.

Ms Molina Martinez went to court to report the attack. She was accompanied by other members of the group trying to formally organize a branch of Amnesty International in Guatemala. Luis Sosa is one of the members of this group that wants the installation in Guatemala of an Amnesty International branch to defend and promote human rights.

The creation of the Guatemalan branch of Amnesty International is being organized with the backing from this organization's London home office and by the group headed by Jorge de Paz, who during the administration of General Efrain Rios Montt was at the disposal of the Special Courts, but was able to survive.

Amnesty International will soon make its presence in Guatemala official, and it is expected that it will be welcomed by the government because this organization has much prestige and respect and some years ago received the Nobel Peace Prize. It has been promoting human rights throughout the world for approximately 36 years.

CORRECTION TO USSR COMMENT ON REGIONAL ISSUES

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Pavlov on Regional Issues," published in the 2 March Latin America DAILY REPORT. Page P 6, paragraph three, last line, make read:

...have (?the Soviets) given?

[Pavlov] From what I know we have given no MIG's.

[Reporter] And helicopters?

[Pavlov] Helicopter, yes. But helicopters... (supplying additional material)

HONDURAS

GEN LOPEZ REYES ANNOUNCES NEW POLITICAL GROUP

PA271610 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 25 Feb 87 p 45

[Excerpt] General Walter Lopez Reyes, retired, yesterday announced the creation of a new political organiation called Democratic Action [Accion Democratica], which "is pluralist, centrist, has no commitments with anyone other than the Honduran people," and will participate in the next elections.

He disclosed this in the studios of Radio America during an interview in which he addressed various topics ranging from his participation in the 1969 war to the phase after the conflict, the beginning of constitutionality, and his activity in the political sphere.

"I am inclined to enter the political arena to serve my people because they are the ones who financed the expenses to make me a professional. I must repay them by contributing ideas that will be of great benefit for society, because we want to carry out social transformations without any hesitation. We believe that the alternatives that the people will find in our Democratic Action movement will be advisable, opportune, and most suitable," he said.

This group, he said, "which will be independent of any legally recognized party in Honduras, will be named Democratic Action because we will fight within democracy and obey the laws with the civic spirit and patriotism that are the basis for laws."

"I must state that at least two of us who served in the Honduran Air Force are in this movement, Colonel Fernando Soto is also a member. In this way, you can see the direction of our ideas and actions for the achievement of the objectives that we want for Honduras," he stressed.

Lopez Reyes stressed that Democratic Action is willing to hold a dialogue and even to enter into a coalition if circumstances required it. "We are open to this because we will not fight with the weapon of insults. Instead, we will fight civilly. The challenge will come from those of us who use the truth, who will present the most adequate ideas for a government plan, and who will make the necessary efforts to put aside all our selfishness and resolve the needs of malnourished people without housing, health, work, and security." [passage omitted]

NICARAGUA

FURTHER ORTEGA COMMENT ON TOWER COMMISSION REPORT

PA030422 Moscow BARRICADA in Spanish 1 Mar 87 p 1

[Text] The Tower Commission report confirms the Nicaraguan reports that the mercenary forces have received military and economic supplies despite U.S. legal prohibitions, said Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega, president of Nicaragua.

Ortega added: "We cannot harbor illusions and expect that the Tower Commission report will tie the hands of the U.S. Administration. The speech against Nicaragua remains the same; congressional policy is the same. The military solution prevails, against the Contadora Group's peace-making efforts."

Ortega said that the danger of a naval blockage continues, as well as the plans to conduct "surgical operations" against the country's strategic objectives. "They have plans that they would like to implement, such as the destruction of the refinery," he affirmed.

Commander Ortega reported -- without mentioning dates -- a mercenary raid from Honduran territory with approximately 6,000 men, with the objective to prove to the U.S. Congress that they are a "belligerent military force."

However, Ortega noted that the contras have been systemically defeated and are withdrawing to their camps in Honduras."

"The only thing that can raise the contras' military capacity would be the direct involvement of the U.S. Army, implementing the naval blockade, aerial bombings, or promoting other terrorist actions," Ortega said.

BARRICADA INTERVIEWS VATICAN NUNCIO GIGILIO

PA280408 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 27 Feb 87 p 1

[By Arquels Morales]

[Text] We had agreed to meet at 1100 at the nuncio splendid residence 10 and 1/2 km along the southern highway. Now, after a brief wait, we had before us Msgr Paolo Giglio, Holy See representative to Nicaragua. Our dialogue began. We asked: Is it true that the Vatican has amassed tremendous wealth? The interviewee said yes.

Is there not a contradiction between the Catholic Church's doctrine and this unproductive wealth? He answered: What could we do? Perhaps sell the works of art, the Vatican library? With that, we could feed the poor only once or twice and they would then continue to be poor!

The word poor leads to another idea, and we ask the next question. Msgr Giglio answers like this: "For the poor to cease being poor, we must convince them of the need to begin working in earnest. But poverty cannot disappear from the world completely because the poor are necessary in society.

"The rich are also necessary in society, because society is an organic being. The poor must work for the rich." He stops suddenly at the door and reminds me that the interview was to discuss the Vatican and not to consider things like world poverty. We return to our topic and talk a little about the history of the Holy See, the travels of Pope John Paul II through the world, the theology of liberation, and the influence of the Opus Dei society on the Vatican's foreign policy.

LA PRENSA PLANS TO CONTINUE DESPITE OPPRESSION

PA030335 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0101 GMT 3 Mar 87

[Text] Managua, 2 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- Violeta Chamorro, president of the censured daily LA PRENSA affirmed today that the newspaper has not quit its struggle to return to public, "even under the most violent opposition" by the Sandinist Government.

Today, on LA PRENSA's 61st anniversary 52 [as published] days since the indefinite closing of the newspaper by the government, Violeta Chamorro affirmed that the Sandinists "have been unable to prove" the charges that the daily "was inspired and paid" by the CIA.

The Nicaraguan Government closed the opposition daily on 26 June 1986, 1 day after the U.S. Congress approval of aid for the "contras."

However, Violeta Chamorro, widow of newspaper director Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, murdered in January 1978 by Somoza's gunmen, said that the Sandinists "have not been able to prove any of the slanders they have launched abroad against us."

Following the suspension of the newspaper, President Daniel Ortega made harsh accusations against LA PRENSA. Ortega said that the daily was a mouthpiece of the Ronald Reagan administration's policy, and that the owners received aid from Washington.

"We have not quit our struggle to return to publication, even under the most violent opporession they may want to impose" on the newspaper founded 61 years ago, Violeta Chamorro said.

The editors of the newspaper presented a second injunction on 18 February at the corresponding tribunal, expecting that the reopening of the opposition newspaper will be permitted by the court.

LA PRENSA presented its first injunction on 2 December 1985, which was rejected by the tribunal, terming as legal the government measure.

LA PRENSA's owners attempted to publish the daily on 16 January, 7 days after the promulgation of the new political constitution, based on the new state of individual freedoms and guarantees established in the Constitution.

In response to LA PRENSA's request, the Interior Minstry's Communication Media General Directorate responded that the publication of the daily was not authorized "because of superior instructions."

On that occasion, the opposition daily edition had an 8-column headline that read: "Constitution Permits Newspapers." It also contained a letter sent to Peruvian President Alan Garcia, and remarks by Vice President Sergio Ramirez.

Violeta Chamorro argued that the emergency law, recently ratified at the parliament, does not justify linking the closing of the daily with an "internal armed movement," termed by the [government's] "own political friends," as an "absurd contradition."

Violeta Chamorro also noted that the newspaper has nothing to do with the rebels and should not continue being "a hostage" of the government, which keeps it "silent."

The owner of the closed newspaper also reported "a huge propaganda campaign" by the government to continue "imposing its totalitarian regulations above all laws and all juridical reasoning."

TRIBUNAL SENTENCES CONTRA, CHARGES 4 OTHERS

PA272251 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 26 Feb 87 p 2

[Text] Twenty three-old maid Bernarda Calderon Gonzalez from Quilali, Nueva Segovia, has been condemned by the Anti-Somozist People's Tribunals [TPA] to 9 years of imprisonment for violating the law of public order and security.

Through her brother (Fidencio), Bernarda joined the anti-Sandinist counterrevolution in 1982, moving to Posillo, Susucayan, where her brother was living, to then leave with him for Honduran territory, where she was given the pseudonym of "Claudia."

In Honduras they arrived at the Las Vegas mercenary base, where she received military training for 2 months. She met Somozist leaders "Coral, "Gabriel," "Comal," "Bagre," "plateada," and "Fallinan." In that base she received an AK rifle with 500 pounds of ammunition. Her leader was the mercenary "Gabriel."

On 4 October 1984 Calderon Gonzalez returned to Nicaragua with a Somozist group to occupy the area of El Jicaro.

In Nicaraguan territory she participated in an ambush of an EPS owned IFA truck.

When the mercenary group was leaving, Bernarda sprained one of her ankles, so she was left in a house in Las Canas, where she was subsequently arrested.

The TPA also read the charges against four Somozist counterrevolutionaries. They were all from Santo Domingo municipality, Chontales, but from different localities.

The report says that since 1974 Irene Feliciano Obregon Urbina, Francisco Mejia Suarez, Pablo Zeledon Fernandez, and Terencio Vasquez Anguilo had been carrying out counterrevolutionary activities and providing information about EPS mobilizations as well as food, shelter, and money to the various FDN leaders.

During their counterrevolutionary activities they met task force leaders "Roberto," "Kaliman," "Fernando," "Yimil," "Gavilan," "Miguel," and the ill-famed "Tigrillo." The TPA will sentence the four counterrevolutionaries in the coming days.

USSR'S YELTSIN ARRIVES FOR BRIEF VISIT

Tours Havana

FL021552 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 2 Mar 87

[Text] Boris Yeltsin, alternate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Moscow City CPSU Committee, received the keys to the City of Havana during an official ceremony held yesterday in our capital.

Yeltsin expressed his gratitude for the honor and wished prosperity to the Cuban people led by our Communist Party and Commander in Chief Fidel Castro. Among the places visited by the Soviet delegation, hours after arriving in our country, were the Vladimir Ilich Lenin monument located in Lenin Park, the botanical garden, and the Ernesto "Che" Guevara Pioneer Palace.

Jorge Risquet Valdes, member of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Politburo and of the PCC Central Committee Secretariat, was present at the ceremony in which the distinguished guest received the keys to the city.

Departs; Visit Highlighted

FL022030 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1902 GMT 2 Mar 87

[Text] The delegation of the USSR Supreme Soviet headed by Boris Yeltsin, first secretary of the Moscow City CPSU Committee, left for Nicaragua today after a brief stopover visit in Cuba.

Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Politburo, met the group at the Jose Marti International Airport. Several hours after his arrival in Havana, Yeltsin received the symbolic keys to the city of Havana from Pedro Chavez, president of the Provincial Committee of the Central Committee in this capital. The Soviet delegation toured the monument to Lenin in Lenin Park, the botanical gardens, the Ernesto Guevara Pioneer Palace, and the biogenetics and biotechnology engineering institute.

Yeltsin and the members of his delegation went to the Palace of the Revolution in Havana for official talks.

SOVIET ARMY GENERAL ARRIVES FOR WORKING VISIT

FL021545 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 2 Mar 87

[Announcer-read report over video showing Soviet Army official arriving at Havana Airport]

[Text] Army General Aleksey Dmitriyevich Lizichev, chief of the Main Political Directorate of the Soviet Army and Navy, arrived in our country yesterday for a working visit. Army General Lizichev, who is also member of the CPSU Central Committee, is in our country at the invitation of Army General Raul Castro, minister of the FAR.

During his stay in Cuba, Lizichev will visit historic and other places of interest and will exchange experiences with leaders of our Armed Forces.

Division Generals Sixto Batista Santana, member of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Central Committee Secretariat, and chief of its military department, and Rogelio Acevedo Gonzalez, member of the PCC Central Committee and chief of the FAR Central Political Directorate went to the international airport to receive him.

FAR Talks Held

FL030155 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 3 Mar 87

[Announcer-read report with video showing men in uniform sitting on opposite sides of large table]

[Text] A high level Soviet Armed Forces delegation is visiting our country, Army General Aleksey Dmitriyevich Lizichev, chief of the Main Political Directorate of the USSR Army and Navy, and member of the CPSU Central Committee, has held talks at the Ministry of the FAR with Division General Ulises Rosales del Toro, Chief of the General Staff and alternate member of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Politburo. Minutes earlier the Soviet officer had met with Division General Rogelio Acevedo Gonzalez, chief of the FAR's Central Political Directorate and member of the PCC Central Committee.

During the first day of its stay in Cuba, the Soviet delegation visited the Jose Marti monument on Revolution Square and placed wreaths at the Cacahual Mausoleum and the Soviet internationalist soldier monument.

COMMENTARY EXAMINES NICARAGUAN ECONOMY

PA281447 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 27 Feb 87

["Our America" commentary read by Norberto Hernandez]

[Text] The continued U.S. aggression against Nicaragua is, undoubtedly, one of the main causes of the serious economic imbalance suffered by that Central American country. In 1987 Nicaragua will try to significantly increase its production. According to its planned goals, the Nicaraguan gross national product should grow somewhat over 2 percent in the current year. This constitutes a veritable challenge, if one takes into account that in 1986 Nicaragua had the highest inflation levels in all of Latin America and the largest trade deficit in its entire history. The inauspicious year that just ended was the third consecutive year showing such negative growth. This was due in no small part to the counterrevolutionary war, the financial blockade and the trade embargo imposed on Nicaragua by the United States.

According to an ECLA report, some of the causes for the high inflation in Nicaragua are the significant increases of the various types of exchange and the deficit of the public sector. ECLA admitted that there has been enormous difficulty in correcting these trends, mostly because of the large defense-related expenses. In other words, the huge amounts of resources which Nicaraguans must divert to the war effort prevent the country from fully implementing its plans against the underdevelopment accumulated during all the years of Somozist dictatorship.

In this regard, the Permanent Conference of Latin American Political Parties (COPPPAL) that met recently, stated in its closing document that the mercenary aggression from neighboring territories against Nicaragua, has caused nearly $4 million [as heard] of economic losses for the tiny Central American country. Also 37,000 Nicaraguans -- most of them young -- have lost their lives during the war. This means that, aside from the painful loss, the country has also lost manpower that could have aided its national development. Moreover, the destruction of the economy caused by war, the lack of international financing to invest in production, the closing of the U.S. market due to the embargo, and the harmful effects of the deterioration of the exchange market, have caused a drop in the volume and value of Nicaraguan exports.

Notwithstanding these problems, the Sandinist government feels that the most important task is to increase all production indexes in the various sectors of the national economy. Optimism is behind all measures aimed at achieving economic growth, without losing sight of the possibility of an escalation in the U.S. aggression. Therefore, the Sandinist government has started to organize its economy on a regional basis. This will allow for a prolonged resistance in the face of a possible occupation of the country.

FMLN-FDR REPRESENTATIVE ON U.S. INTERVENTION

PA281842 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Feb 87

[Interview with Moises Martinez, FMLN-FDR representative in Cuba, by Carmen Esquivel; date and place not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Esquivel] What consequences could the incursion into El Salvador by U.S. helicopters have on the Salvadoran conflict?

[Martinez] This has become open knowledge. The United States wants to intervene in Central America, especially in El Salvador where they are directly financing a war in which their various counterinsurgency plans have gone from one failure to another. Because they have been failing and have no prospects of reaching their objectives, the time is near when, as a last resort, they will try to use more of their forces directly, either through their own troops or through allied forces directed by them. Those forces would carry out the U.S. military plan as the Salvadoran Army is now trying to do under the leadership of the U.S. advisers.

It must be pointed out that the United States has experienced failures not only in El Salvador but also in their plans against Nicaragua. In Nicaragua they have already reached the point of utmost failure because the counterrevolutionary forces, better described as Somozist, have already been dealt a definite strategic defeat.

The exercises, which they perform with Honduras and which have always been used as a cover to provide more supplies and to undertake a greater concentration of forces [2-second break in transmission] are today being used for these acts of aggression and disrespect of national sovereignty.

In the specific case of the incursions by the helicopters, the brave U.S. pilots enjoyed themselves while strafing a column of civilians who were only on their way to receive food the International Red Cross was distributing in a nearby area. The criminality of the U.S. policy, of the U.S. Army, has again clearly shown how they lack moral values and what little authority they have to speak about human rights and other issues, which should only be addressed by people who are truly normal and honest and who have sufficient moral authority.

[Esquivel] Is there any possibility of renewing the dialogue between the insurgent fronts and the Napoleon Duarte government?

[Martinez] At this time there is talk of a dialogue, but for demagogic purposes. We do not really see any signs of a change in the U.S. policy. On the contrary, we see that as a result of its failure in the military adventure with the Nicaraguan contras, it is now more obstinately determined to carry out a military adventure in El Salvador. In any case, what they are doing now is working to improve Duarte's image. We are assisting, we are making proposals, we are replying, and we are presenting specific dialogue proposals. We are not absent just because we see the lack of seriousness [on the governments' part]. On the contrary, we are trying to commit those forces to hold a dialogue. This commitment, I insist, is to cause the Salvadoran people the least number of sacrifices. It responds exclusively to that.

Moreover, the plan, the aim of the Duarte government -- which is following the U.S. policy of opting for an armed struggle, for an armed solution -- to have the FMLN lay down its weapons as a condition for the dialogue is a really irrational plan. The FMLN is not losing the war. On the contrary, the war is progressing. The peoples revolutionary war, the just war being waged by the Salvadoran people in defense of their interests has been able to frustrate the counterinsurgency plans of the U.S. Government and Army which direct the puppet Army in El Salvador.

SALVADORAN 'CRISIS' SEEN AFFECTING EDUCATION

PA021953 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 1 Mar 87

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] The crisis of the Salvadoran regime has also reached the schoolrooms. Four months after the quake that destroyed San Salvador on 10 October, over 1 million students began receiving what the authorities describe as emergency education, which is given only three times a week in makeshift schoolrooms.

According to recent official figures, El Salvador has a little over 5 million inhabitants, of whom 46 percent are less than 15 years of age. However, according to statistics of the Education Ministry, over 50 percent of the population is illiterate. Moreover, in 1980 the authorities earmarked 25 percent of the national budget for education, which was reduced to only 15 percent last year.

Bearing in mind that the regime devotes to its war program twice as much as it assigns to education, and the fact that 1 million students receive classes only three times a week in makeshift classrooms, makes the situation doubly dramatic. It is true that last year's quake left 162 schools damaged. However, the government has repaired only 15 of them while it waits for an IDB donation to build 400 new classrooms and to repair 2,400 others.

Meanwhile, Jose Napoleon Duarte has $1 million available to put up makeshift classrooms out of a $50 million donation the United States gave him because of the quake emergency. Under the emergency plan, $4 million was earmarked to create 20,000 temporary jobs for the cleanup of rubble in the entire metropolitan area. The offer was accepted by women and children of all ages, who have been going up and down San Salvador's streets since early January for a salary of $2.00 daily.

The earthquake left over 200,000 homeless and unemployment grew to over 70 percent. The regime probably thinks that the picture of women and children picking up debris with shovels and wheelbarrows is very humanitarian. However, the fact that this work has to be done by these small children, who should be taking classes in real schoolrooms and during normal hours, is shocking and reprehensible.

Undoubtedly, the crisis of the Salvadoran regime has reached the classrooms. However, the war has the authorities totally preoccupied, as they futilely insist on resolving the conflict with more money for military actions than for educating the masses.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS 'DARKEN' LIFE IN GUATEMALA

PA011552 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 1 Mar 87

[Report by Felipe Valladares from San Jose — recorded]

[Text] Many developments took place this Friday [27 February] in Guatemala.

To begin with, Armed Forces spokesman Roberto Linares announced the reshuffle in high-ranking positions in the Guatemalan Army. In addition, Indian leaders blamed the National Police for kidnapping an Indian leader in Retalhuleu Department, southwest of Guatemala City. Also, the president of the Bank of Guatemala announced that inflation skyrocketed throughout the country.

The Armed Forces spokesman said that General Edilberto Letona's resignation from the position of chief of General Staff of national defense was intended to make room for General Cesar Augusto Caceres Garcia to be promoted but that the latter will only remain in the position 2 months because he will retire in April, according to military regulations.

Meanwhile, the Indian leaders said that on 18 February police officers kidnapped leader (Andres Tocai) because he had been demanding better working conditions from a farm owner in Retalhuleu.

Federico Linares, president of the Bank of Guatemala, admitted that inflation is the greatest scourge plaguing the Guatemalan people.

All of these events, combined with the wave of violence in Guatemala, darken the panorama of daily life in Guatemala's society.

UNITED STATES-HONDURAS MILITARY MANEUVERS VIEWED

PA011852 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 1 Mar 87

["Commentary" read by Amalia Sanmartino]

[Text] The joint maneuvers held by U.S. and Honduran troops for almost 2 weeks near the border with El Salvador, Guatemala, and Nicaragua ended on Friday [27 February] in Honduras.

With an extraordinary display of military gear, the 82d U.S. Airborne Division -- the same that invaded Grenada in 1983 -- and Honduran Army troops carried out the exercises for the main purpose of creating the necessary infrastructure to invade Nicaragua.

These maneuvers, some of which have been large-scale in nature, have been held for almost 5 years -- that is, since shortly after the beginning of the U.S. aggression against the Sandinist (?revolution).

It must be noted that during all maneuvers held thus far the Honduran Government has placed its entire national territory at the disposal of the United States and has given all sorts of facilities to the U.S. troops to carry out, along with special Honduran Army forces, mock attacks against neighboring countries which in this case took on realistic characteristics.

In this regard it must be kept in mind that one of the objectives of the U.S. Administration is to liquidate the Salvadoran revolutionary movement, and for this reason during these maneuvers U.S. helicopters made incursions into Morazan Department and even fired at inhabitants of Perquin.

As on previous occasions, the joint military maneuvers are part of the preparations for a direct invasion of Nicaragua. However, the constant presence of U.S. troops has caused, in addition, a huge number of social problems in Honduras and (?outright) rejection by the entire population of that Central American country.

This delicate aspect, combined with the open meddling by the White House in Central American affairs, undoubtedly delays all peace plans for the region.

GRENADA'S BLAIZE SEEN FACING SERIOUS PROBLEMS

PA012333 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 28 Feb 87

["Our America" commentary read by Manolo Ortega]

[Text] In the wake of the U.S. invasion of Grenada in October 1983, the small Caribbean republic is sailing in a sea full of difficulties that seem to have no solutions.

Furthermore, all seems to point to the fact that the Grenadian ship of state is being pulled helplessly into the eye of a storm.

Elderly Prime Minister Herbert Blaize, of the so-called New National Party (NNP), representative of the U.S. influence in the country, is experiencing days of crisis under the pressure of national chaos, quarrels within his party, and attempts on the part of former dictator Eric Gairy to return to power.

A few days ago, groups within the NNP claimed that Blaize should resign in view of his inability to resolve the island's problems. These problems include unrestrained growth of unemployment, criminality, and the lack of security. The local weekly GRENADIAN VOICE was blunt recently as it summed up the nation's problems. The interests of the country, it said in an editorial, demand that the prime minister graciously resign and turn over his post to a designated successor. The elderly chief of government's support bases are truly weak and that is why domestic groups are thinking about replacing him, but this, of course, would have Washington's blessing.

The governing party's brutal plan to dismiss 3,000 public employees is going ahead. This will increase the unemployment rate, which now surpasses 30 percent. Moreover, the cost of living continues to go up and, meanwhile, crime and social unrest increase as a logical response to the impossibility of finding work.

In December, politial tension reached a danger point when Blaize called upon the paramilitary forces of St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Dominque, and St. Christopher to forestall the possibility of riots when the verdict against the murders of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop was released. Everything seems to indicate that Blaize fears a social explosion as a result of his incompetent domestic policy, so he quickly sought the military support of Washington's allies in the region.

A new danger looms in the deteriorated Grenadian panorama; the appetites of dictator Eric Gairy, who is back in Grenada after the U.S. military invasion. Gairy, promoter of a brutal repressive violence, declared that he is calmly waiting to return as head of government once the NNP has dissolved because of its own internal conflicts.

Meanwhile, Washington is observing the events and has closed its pockets, despite the fact that its Grenadian lackeys are clamoring for the urgent aid that Reagan promised the island after the significant damage caused by the 1983 military invasion. Unrest is growing daily within the Grenadian masses, who have never recognized the pro-American authorities as their legitimate representatives.

WESTERN SAHARA CONGRATULATED ON ANNIVERSARY

FL272121 Havana Radio Periodico del Aires in Spanish 1700 GMT 27 Feb 87

[Text] On the occasion of the 11th anniversary of the founding of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic [SDAR] the Movement for the Peace and Sovereignty of the Peoples has sent a message of greeting to its heroic people, who are consolidating their independence under the leadership of the popular front for the liberation of Saguia el Hamra and Rio de Oro.

The SDAR is an invincible achievement of its people, who have won the recognition of the world's progressive and peace-loving forces through their resistance for self-determination and legitimate rights, the note reads.

'BROAD SUPPORT' EXPECTED FROM NONALIGNED MEETING

FL270410 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 Feb 87

[Text] Specialists predict that Cuba will be given broad support during the upcoming Nonaligned Movement foreign ministers meeting to be held in Georgetown to discuss the current Latin American and Caribbean situation. It was reported that a document drafted by the Guyanese Foreign Ministry for the ministerial meeting condemns the growing U.S. aggressive threats to Cuba. Diplomatic sources asserted that the government repudiates Washington's violation of Cuban airspace and territorial waters. It also indicates that hostile U.S. measures against Cuba constitute a serious obstacle to the efforts of the countries of the region to establish relations of harmony, friendship, and solidarity.

DAAFAR MARKS BEGINNING OF INSTRUCTION YEAR

FL022324 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2132 GMT 2 Mar 87

[Text] As part of the activities under way in Armed Forces (?units), a ceremony to mark the beginning of the 1987 instruction year was held today by the Antiaircraft Defense and Revolutionary Air Force [DAAFAR]. Brigadier General Ladislao Baranda delivered the closing remarks, referring to the successful execution of the "Bastion 86" strategic exercise in which the combatants exemplified the heightened spirit of struggle and victory of the members of the FAR. He stressed that the combative and mobilization capacity of the troops grew during the instruction period last year, with the troops reaching higher levels in combative guard affectiveness. At the same time, military discipline and regulations were strengthened. Although we have made progress, Brig Gen Baranda emphasized, we are not free of deficiencies, which must be taken into account so they will not be repeated this year.

We are beginning a qualitatively superior stage in keeping with the profound transformations that the party has formulated in the socioeconomic plan in order to build socialism, Brig Gen Baranda asserted. He stated that this year socialist emulation will seek to elicit the greatest efforts to honor the 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution.

During the ceremony, Division General Julio Casas Regueiro, vice minister of the FAR, presented the banners certifying the 30th Granma landing anniversary emulation to the DAAFAR troops and the Jose Marti Technical-Military School. The ceremony, held at an outstanding DAAFAR post in the western region of the country, concluded with a parade by the participating troops and an exhibition of combat techniques.

ROBAINA ADDRESSES UJC MEETING IN SANTIAGO

FL231437 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1313 GMT 23 Feb 87

[Excerpt] Objective analyses of major current issues have characterized the assessment meetings of the Union of Young Communists [UJC] in Villa Clara, Sancti Spiritus, Ciego de Avila, Las Tunas, Santiago de Cuba, and Guantanamo.

Roberto Robaina, first secretary of the UJC, closed the meeting of Santiago's Young Communists. He pointed out that we had to leave behind the times when we merely knew of the problems and did not fight them effectively. This is the duty of every Communist. Robaina said that an end must be put to the idea that a UJC grass roots committee is doing well because it holds the required number of meetings, without concern for the problems affecting their work centers. Robaina called on Santiago youth to struggle against criminal manifestations and to work more thoroughly to reduce the percentage of those who are not working or attending school. [passage omitted]

MACHADO VENTURA PRESIDES OVER HAVANA UJC MEETING

FL021556 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 2 Mar 87

[Text] The preparatory period prior to the Fifth Union of Young Communists [UJC] Congress has concluded with a UJC Havana provincial assembly meeting. The meeting was presided over by Jose Ramon Machado Ventura, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Politburo and of the PCC Central Committee Secretariat.

The main report was thoroughly discussed. Representatives of the almost 170,000 young people of the territory debated matters such as the importance of setting a good example, economic education, and the rectification process, among other subjects. The fluctuation of youth in work centers, young workers' rejection of fraudulent actions, and young people in defense tasks, were also broadly discussed topics.